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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Above and Beyond Business Tools and Services for Entrepreneurs Incorporated,

Plaintiff,

v.

David Trumbo,

Defendant.

No. CV-23-00256-PHX-JJT

ORDER

At issue is the sanction on PayCompass, LLC for its noncompliance with the Court's Order (Doc. 17) compelling responses to Plaintiff's subpoena *duces tecum*. At the hearing in this matter on February 9, 2023 (Doc. 30), the Court ordered Plaintiff to file a "statement of the costs for the Motion to Compel" that the Court will "assess . . . as a penalty for noncompliance" of the Court's Orders by PayCompass as of the date of the hearing, and PayCompass had two weeks thereafter to challenge the reasonableness of Plaintiff's penalty request. (Hr'g Tr. 02/09/2023 at 43:18-25.)

Plaintiff duly filed a statement of costs including attorneys' fees totaling \$40,167.00 for both this matter and the sister case, CV-23-00256-PHX-JJT. (Doc. 34.) PayCompass responded by (1) challenging Plaintiff's entitlement to costs and fees, and (2) challenging the reasonableness of Plaintiff's request because it went beyond Plaintiff's work on the Motion to Compel. (Doc. 39.) Plaintiff filed a Reply (Doc. 41) that did not comply to the form and format rules of this Court, so the Court did not consider it.

PayCompass's first challenge to Plaintiff's request lacks merit. The Court already decided it would award Plaintiff its costs for bringing and seeking enforcement of the Motion to Compel as a penalty for PayCompass's non-compliance with the Court's Order in this case (Hr'g Tr. 02/09/2023 at 43:18-25), which is well within the Court's authority. *See Chambers v. NASCO, Inc.*, 501 U.S. 32, 45 (1991).

As for PayCompass's challenge to the reasonableness of Plaintiff's request, PayCompass points out that a substantial part of the attorneys' fees Plaintiff requests were for matters beyond the filing of the Motion to Compel and seeking compliance with the Court's resulting Order. PayCompass asks for a reduction of the penalty to \$15,574.50 in this matter (Doc. 39 at 8) and \$12,182.00 in the sister matter, for a total of \$27,756.50 in both cases.

The Court finds that a total penalty of \$27,750.00 for noncompliance in both cases is reasonable and sufficient. The Court will divide that amount equally among the two cases, resulting in a penalty of \$13,875.00 in each case.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that PayCompass, LLC shall pay Plaintiff Above and Beyond Business Tools and Services for Entrepreneurs Inc. the amount of \$13,875.00 for PayCompass's failure to comply with the Court's Orders (Doc. 17) in this case up to the date of the last hearing on February 9, 2023.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2023.

Honorable John J. Tuchi United States District Judge